

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 8-11 remain pending. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of the canceled claims and is respectfully submitted to define over the references of record.

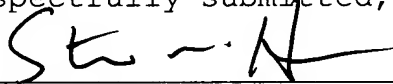
Original claims 12 and 13 related to marking defects in the web and culling the marked defects from the web. The subject matter of these claims has been incorporated into amended claim 1. The Examiner cites to Ho and Shofner as disclosing these limitations. Ho does not disclose or fairly suggest physically marking a web - the "marking" disclosed in Ho relates solely to marking computer data for later display to a user. The Shofner document makes no disclosure or fair suggestion of culling marked defects from a web. Instead, Shofner relates to excluding defect materials from a process before the defect materials are formed into a web.

Amended claim 1 specifies that the inspected portion of the web is an unsupported free-span portion of the web that extends and is moving between first and second spaced-apart idler rolls, wherein said web moves in a down-web direction while being maintained under a select tension of at least one pound of tension for each inch of said width of the web. These limitations were originally set forth in claims 14-17 (now canceled). The Examiner points to Kaus and Young, Jr. as disclosing these limitations. The applicant respectfully notes that Kaus teaches directly away from inspecting an unsupported span of film in that it specifies that the film runs along a curved path on a film carrier device 5 that is reinforced by bended guiding elements 6 that engage the film and along which the film glides (Kaus, col. 2, lines 16-21). With

respect to the tensioning limitation, the Examiner cites to Young, Jr. (Young). It is respectfully noted that the portion of Young cited by the Examiner does not relate to tensioning the film 112 being processed. Instead, the tensioning referenced by the Examiner refers to a tape cleaning system that lifts particles from the rollers 502 between which the film moves. Nothing in Young references a particular tension of the film 112 being processed.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended claim 1 and claims 8-11 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS

Kindly amend the drawings as follows:

Enclosed are three (3) **Replacement Sheets** of formal drawings (Figs. 1-3) to replace the original drawings filed with the application.